What is claimed is:

1.   A developing method for electrophotographic image for developing an electrophotographic image by use of a developing device comprising a developing mechanism having a developer carrier for carrying a developer along a preset circulating route including a developing area and a developer restricting element for restricting the developer on the developer carrier, and a developer supply mechanism having storing means for the developer, wherein said developing method comprises the steps of:

using a start-up developer at an initial state of use of the developing mechanism; and

using a replenishing developer differed in grain size or grain size distribution from the start-up developer after an end of the initial state of use of the developing mechanism.

2.   The developing method for electrophotographic image according to claim 1, wherein, when number percentage of a fine powder component of 5µm or less in the start-up developer is Ndu and number percentage of a fine powder component of 5 µm or less in the replenishing developer is Ntc, the grain size distributions of the start-up developer and replenishing developer satisfy the following relational expressions:

Ndu ≤ 20.0%, and 20.0% < Ntc ≤ 25.0%

3.   The developing method for photographic image according to claim 1, wherein when volume percentage of a fine powder component of 5µm or less in the start-up developer is Vdu and volume percentage of a fine powder component of 5µm or less in the replenishing developer is Vtc, the grain size distributions of the start-up developer and replenishing developer satisfy the following relational expressions:

Vdu ≤ 2.0% and 2.0 < Vtc ≤ 5.0%.

4.   The developing method for electrophotographic

image according to claim 1, wherein, when a volume average grain size of the start-up developer is DVdu and a volume average grain size of the replenishing developer DVtc, the volume average grain sizes of the start-up developer and replenishing developer satisfy the following relational expressions:

$0.3 \ \mu m \leq Dvdu - DVtc \leq 1.2 \ \mu m$, and $7.5 \ \mu m \leq DVtc \leq 8.5 \ \mu m$.

5. The developing method for electrophotographic image according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein, when a CV value shown by the volume average grain size of the start-up developer is CVdu and a CV value shown by the volume average grain size of the replenishing developer is CVtc, the CV values of the start-up developer and replenishing developer satisfy the following relational expression:

$CVdu \leq CVtc$.

6. The developing method for electrophotographic image according to claim 1, wherein the developer is a nonmagnetic one-component developer, and the developing method is applied to a nonmagnetic one-component image developing device.

7. A developing device for electrophotographic image comprising a developing mechanism having a developer carrier for carrying a developer along a preset circulating route including a developing area and a developer restricting element for restricting the developer on the developer carrier, and a developer supply mechanism having storing means for storing the developer, wherein the storing means is filled with a start-up developer in the vicinity of the developer carrier and a replenishing developer remoter than the start-up developer from the developer carrier, and both of the start-up developer and the replenishing developer have different grain sizes or grain size distributions.

8. The developing device for electrophotographic

image according to claim 7 wherein the storing means comprises:

a developer storing part filled with the start-up developer at least in the vicinity of the developer carrier; and

a replenishing developer cartridge part filled with the replenishing developer and provided separably from the developer storage part, which successively replenishes the replenishing developer to the developer storage part.

9.   A printing device comprising an optical writing system for exposing a photosensitive drum to obtain a latent image, at least one developing device for visualizing the latent image on the photosensitive drum, a transfer unit for transferring the image visualized on the photosensitive drum to a sheet, and a fixing unit for fixing the image transferred to the sheet, wherein:

the developing device comprises a developing mechanism having a developer carrier for carrying a developer along a preset circulating route including a developing area and a developer restricting element for restricting the developer on the developer carrier, and a developer supply mechanism having storing means for storing the developer; and

the storing means is filled with a start-up developer in the vicinity of the developer carrier and a replenishing developer remoter than the start-up developer from the developer carrier, and both of the start-up developer and the replenishing developer have different grain sizes or grain size distributions.